

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended). A compound having the formula

A-B-C-X-Y

(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or ester prodrug ~~thereof~~, wherein

A is absent or a nitrogen protecting group;

Y is absent or a carboxylic acid protecting group;

B is absent or is from 1 to ~~about~~ 197 naturally-occurring amino acid residues corresponding to the sequence from ~~about~~ amino acid position 334 to amino acid position 530 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

C is R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>-R<sup>3</sup>-R<sup>4</sup> wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is lysyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is leucyl or arginyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is tyrosyl, 3-I-tyrosyl or phenylalanyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is aspartyl; and

X is absent or is from 1 to ~~about~~ 12 naturally-occurring amino acid residues corresponding to the sequence from amino acid position 535 to about amino acid position 546 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 2. – 68. (Cancelled).

Claim 69. (Currently Amended). A compound having the formula

A-B-C-X-Y

(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or ester prodrug ~~thereof~~, wherein

A is absent or a nitrogen protecting group;

Y is absent or a carboxylic acid protecting group;

B is 81 naturally-occurring amino acid residues corresponding to the sequence from amino acid position 450 to amino acid position 530 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

C is R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>-R<sup>3</sup>-R<sup>4</sup> wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is lysyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is leucyl or arginyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is tyrosyl, 3-I-tyrosyl or phenylalanyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is aspartyl; and

X is 9 naturally-occurring amino acid residues corresponding to the sequence from amino acid position 535 to amino acid position 543 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 70. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 69 wherein A is absent and Y and B-C-X are as defined therein.

Claim 71. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 69 wherein y is absent and A and B-C-X are as defined therein.

Claim 72. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 69 wherein A and Y are absent and B-C-X is as defined therein.

Claim 73. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 69 wherein A and Y are present and B-C-X is as defined therein.

Claim 74. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 73 wherein A is N-Ac and Y is  $\text{-NH}_2$ .

Claims 75. – 80. (Canceled).

Claim 81. (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.